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WIGTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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A N N U A L   R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1940.

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Noted  
bureau 8  
20/6

STAFF OF HEALTH DEPARTMENT DURING 1940.

	Date of Appointment.
H.C.SIMPSON, L.M.S.S.A., D.P.H. M.S.A.	
Medical Officer of Health.....	1/10/34.
Also Assistant County Medical Officer.....	1/9/26.
 N.S.SPENCER, A.I.W.I., Certif. R.S.I.....	 1/1/17.
Water Engineer, Sanitary Surveyor, Sanitary Inspector.	
 J.R. MILLER, Certif. R.S.A. (Scot.), Certif.....	 1/11/35.
Meat & Food Inspection R.S.A. (Scot.) Sanitary Surveyor, Sanitary Inspector.	
 R. C. BLACKBURN, Certif. R.S.I. and S.I.E.J.B.	 1/8/36.
Housing Surveyor, Meat, Food & Sanitary Inspector.	
 J. JOHNSTON..... Joined H.M. Forces.....	 11/6/35.
Clerk.	

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
WIGTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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Mr. Chairman & Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my seventh Annual Report upon this District for the year 1940. In accordance with Ministry of Health's instructions this report, like that for 1939, has been cut down to essential matters and some of the details now given have already been briefly referred to in my monthly reports.

The vital statistics for 1940 are very satisfactory and compare favourably with the other Rural areas in Cumberland, the Birth Rate was the highest, the Infantile Mortality was the second lowest, and the Death Rate, while higher than in some areas, was well below the average.

With the exception of Pneumonia and Whooping Cough the incidence of the chief infectious diseases was below the average of recent years.

The severe winter and late spring contributed very largely towards the increased number of deaths from Bronchitis and Pneumonia, mainly among old people, and they prevailed generally throughout the whole County.

Your attention is particularly directed to Mr. Blackburn's Meat Inspection figures which prove beyond possible doubt the necessity for controlled slaughtering to continue after the war.

I wish to thank the County M.O.H and his staff for their active co-operation during this most difficult period under review and also much abbreviated staff of the Wigton R.D.C. for the way they have struggled against heavy odds to keep essential Health matters at their present high level.

I am, Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,

HAROLD C. SIMPSON,

Medical Officer of Health.



# STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

## GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of District in Acres.	...	...	...	138,620.
Registrar-General's estimate of population, mid 1940.	...	...	...	23,360.
Number of inhabited houses according to the Rate) Books at the end of 1940.	...	...	...	6,042.
Rateable Value.	...	...	...	£77,262.
Sum represented by a penny rate.	...	...	...	£378.

## UNEMPLOYMENT.

Owing to the War and the general call for labour there was of course a marked decrease in the number of unemployed in the area and this is likely to fall still further as time goes on.

## VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE AREA.

			Total.	M.	F.
<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u> - Legitimate.	...	...	377	201	176
Illegitimate.	...	...	29	12	17
Total live Births.	...	...	406	213	193

Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population. 17.3

<u>STILL BIRTHS.</u> - Legitimate.	...	...	11	4	7
Illegitimate	...	...	1	1	-
Total	...	...	12	5	7

Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births, 28.6

			Total	M.	F.
<u>DEATHS.</u>	...	...	326	159	167

Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated population. 13.9

Deaths from Puerperal Causes (P. Sepsis).	NIL	-	-
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Death Rate of Infants under one year. (M 10. F.16)

All infants per 1,000 live births.	63.5
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births.	63
Illegitimate " " " illegitimate " "	34

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	(M.16 F.18)	...	...	Total 34
"	" Measles " "	...	...	2
"	" Whooping Cough "	...	...	4
"	" Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	NIL.

TABLE SHOWING THE VITAL STATISTICS FOR ENGLAND AND WALES  
AS A WHOLE AND CERTAIN GROUPS IN THE COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st. DECEMBER. 1940.

	<u>Birth Rate.</u>	<u>Crude Death Rate.</u>	<u>Adjusted Death Rate.</u>	<u>Infantile Mortality Rate.</u>
England and Wales.	14.6	14.3	-	55
Administrative County of Cumberland.	15.6	15.2	14.8	73
Urban Districts of Cumberland (including Boroughs of Workington and Whitehaven.	16.4	16.0	16.3	75
Rural Districts of Cumberland.	15.1	14.7	13.9	71
WIGTON RURAL DISTRICT.	17.3	13.9	13.2	63.5

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING  
THE YEAR 1940.

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified.</u>	<u>Admitted to Hospital.</u>	<u>Deaths.</u>
Smallpox.	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever.	23	7	-
Diphtheria.	5	5	-
Enteric Fever.	5	5	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.	5	2	-
Pneumonia.	66	?	20
Erysipeles.	19	?	-
Opthalmia Neonatorum	4	2	-
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis.	5	4	-
Measles.	500	?	2
Whooping Cough.	185	?	4



# TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases of Tuberculosis notified during 1940 together with the Deaths from this Disease :-

Age Group.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
5 - 15	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	2	-	1	-	1	3	-	-
25 - 35	2	-	-	2	1	2	1	-
35 - 45	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-
45 - 55	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
55 - 65	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
All Ages	6	4	2	3	4	6	2	-

There were 10 deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis equal to a death rate of .42 per 1,000 population, the average for the Rural Districts of Cumberland being .80 and for Urban Districts .43.

The number of Tuberculosis Cases on the Register of the Wigton Rural District on the 31st December 1940 was as under :-

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Pulmonary.	43	37	80
Non Pulmonary.	29	40	69
All cases	72	77	149

The above figures show a total increase of 5 cases over those of 1939, all being Non Pulmonary.

# CANCER.

Cancer was responsible for 34 deaths (M.16 F.18) equal to a Death Rate of 1.4 per 1,000 population or approximately one death in every 10.

The figures for previous years were :-

1934 - 35	1936 - 39	1938 - 43
1935 - 37	1937 - 27	1939 - 44

On analysis the 34 deaths were distributed according to age, sex and site of disease as under :-

Organ Affected.	Ages of Males.	Ages of Females.	Total.
<u>Bones.</u>	74	-	1
<u>Skin.</u>	77	-	1
<u>Alimentary System.</u>			
(Stomach	62, 66, 70, 78	57, 65, 69, 72, 80, 81.	10
(Bowel	56, 69, 75, 93	68, 65	7
(Oesophagus.	64.		1
(Liver.	86		1
	72	75.	2
<u>Larynx.</u>		69	1
<u>Mediastinum.</u>		68	1
<u>Reproductive System.</u>			
(vulva.		66	1
(Uterus.		51, 24.	2
(Prostate.	58		1
(Testicle.	59, 33		2
<u>Breast.</u>		58, 64, 74	3
<u>Generalised.</u>		41	1
Total.	16	18	34

Average age at Death. 68.2 yrs.

63.7 yrs.

65.7 yrs.



# GENERAL PRACTITIONERS' MONTHLY RETURNS.

These returns continued to be sent in regularly and the following table shows the number of non-notifiable infectious cases etc. which were seen by the General Practitioners during 1940 :-

	Jan.	Feb.	Mch.	Apr.	May.	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total	Average 1937-1939.
Chicken Pox.	7	19	14	11	-	5	22	2	1	-	1	12	94	64
Mumps.	7	3	2	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	14	87
Influenza.	280	550	200	66	18	12	22	11	25	21	48	32	1285	1325

## WATER SUPPLIES.

As has been usual for a number of years we had some difficulty during the dry periods in supplying sufficient water where it was required. We always have "enough" water in the district, but lack of sufficient storage is responsible for the wastage of many hundreds of thousands of gallons annually.

Chlorination of nearly all our supplies is under consideration but it will be some time before it is an accomplished fact.

During the year a number of analyses were made of our supplies and the following figures show how very necessary chlorination is in some cases.

Date.	Source of Water.	B.coli per 100 c.c.
11. 1.40.	Wigton Town Supply.	Nil.
13. 6.40.	" " "	3
27.11.40.	( " " " ) (At Junction Chamber).	35
13. 1.40.	Townthwaite Spring.	Nil.
16.12.40.	" " "	11
13. 1.40.	Haygill spring.	Nil.
16.12.40.	" " "	Nil.
1. 7.40.	Wellrash Spring.	90
27. 11.40.	" " "	180 +



Date.	Source of Water.	B.Coli for 100 c.c.
1. 7.40.	Greenfoot Spring.	160
27.11.40.	" "	180 +
16.12.40.	Hutments, Kirkbride. (Mixed waters).	8
26. 8.40.	Aspatia and Silloth.	13
26.12.40.	" " "	NIL.

At this time the filters were being overloaded to the extent of 50% above their normal capacity.

The above figures for Wigton supply are typical, varying from "very good" to "definitely bad" according to the rainfall.

Townthwaite also varies considerably, while Haygill, which has been frequently sampled over a period of several years, has so far failed to produce a single colon **Bacillus** a really remarkably pure water supply.

The Greenfoot Spring is nearly always very unsatisfactory and during the greater part of the year the water from it runs to waste and only in times of acute shortage is it used as a domestic supply.

Wellrash has not been used as a water supply, samples were taken to check up its potentialities as an auxiliary source in dry weather.

The Aspatia and Silloth Water Supply is having great difficulty in keeping pace with the ever increasing demand which is likely to overtake the capacity of the mains, even with the addition of the acceleration due to pumping. In view of this increase it is obvious that at no distant date it will be necessary to increase the filtration capacity of the works.

CAUSES OF DEATH WITHIN THE WIGTON RURAL DISTRICT  
DURING 1940 AS GIVEN BY THE REGISTRAR GENERAL.

<u>Cause of death.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Whooping Cough.	1	3	4
Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	4	6	10
Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis.	1	1	2
Syphilitic Diseases.	3	2	5
Influenza	3	5	8
Measles.	1	1	2
Acute Infective Encephalitis	1	-	1
Cancer of Oesophagus	1	-	1 )
" " Stomach and Duodenum.	5	7	12 )
" " Uterus.	-	2	2 ) 34
" " Breast.	-	3	3 )
" " Other Sites.	10	6	16 )
Diabetes.	1	2	3
Inter Cranial Vascular Lesions.	11	12	23
Heart Disease.	41	31	72
Other Circulatory Diseases.	4	4	8
Bronchitis.	8	13	21
Pneumonia.	12	8	20
Other Respiratory Diseases.	3	5	8
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum.	4	4	8
Appendicitis.	1	3	4
Other Digestive Diseases.	6	1	7
Nephritis.	5	4	9
Premature Births.	2	4	6
Congenital Malformations, Birth )			
Injuries, Infant Diseases )	3	6	9
Suicide.	2	-	2
Road Traffic Accidents.	2	-	2
Other Violent Causes.	10	6	16
All other causes.	14	28	42
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	Total. 159	167	326
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Corresponding figures for 1939	163	146	309
" " " 1938	156	141	297
" " " 1937	150	165	315
" " " 1936	141	135	276



# MILK SAMPLING.

The following figures for the Wigton Rural District have been taken from the Annual Report of the County Medical Officer for 1940 :-

	T.T.	Accredited.	Total graded Milk.	Ungraded Milk.
Number of Licences in force.	11	85	96	-
Number of samples taken.	45	297	342	38
" " " reaching Standard.	28 (62%)	194 (65%)	322 (64%)	25 (66%)
" " " below standard.	17 (38%)	103 (35%)	120 (36%)	13 (34%)

Cases of Tuberculosis detected on veterinary examination or reported :-

Tuberculous samples of Milk	-	6
Tuberculosis of Udder.	-	9
Chronic cough etc.	-	10
Atrophy Mastitis Induration )		
non T.B. Etc. )	-	65

## MEAT INSPECTION.

The year 1940 saw the inception of a scheme of centralized slaughtering throughout the country. Our own area is served by two slaughter houses, one at Maryport which supplies the Aspatria and Silloth districts, and the other at Wigton which provides for Wigton and the surrounding district.

Mr. Blackburn is responsible for all inspections at the Wigton depot, and I am indebted to him for the following statistics.

A perusal of these figures and those given for previous years affords ample justification for the scheme from a public health standpoint.

May we never return to the old system of slaughtering in the shambles which were provided for the purpose in Wigton.

Table No. 1.

### Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	<u>Cattle</u> (excluding cows).	<u>Cows.</u>	<u>Calves.</u>	<u>Sheep</u> <u>and</u> <u>Lambs.</u>	<u>Pigs.</u>
Number killed.	820	35	246	3297	633
Number inspected.	820	35	246	3297	633

### ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS.

Whole carcasses condemned.	4	3	6	70	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	299	2	1	93	19
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis.	36.95	14.28	2.84	4.94	3.16

### TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.

Whole carcasses condemned.	7	8	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	34	16	1	-	40
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.	5.0	68.57 $\phi$	0.4	-	6.32

$\phi$  This figure includes animals sent in for slaughter under the Tuberculosis Orders.



Table No. 2.

Comparative Table.

	<u>Total weight of meat condemned.</u>	<u>Carcases Inspected.</u>	<u>Area served.</u>
1936	6890 lbs.	1470	The whole of the Council's area.
1937	6728 lbs.	2357	
1938.	5494 lbs.	1703	
1939	Figures not available.		
1940.	22,466 lbs.	4398	Wigton district only. (Excluding Aspatria & Silloth.

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Table No. 3.

The principal grounds of condemnation were as follows :-

Bovines.

Sheep.

Tuberculosis.	8,240 lbs.	Emaciation & Malnutrition.	1,087 lbs.
Cirrhosis of Liver.	4,525 lbs.	Oedema.	924 lbs.
Febrile condition.	1,147 lbs.	Moribund condition.	518 lbs.
Putrefaction.	644 lbs.	Febrile condition.	429 lbs.
Uraemia.	490 lbs.	Parasitic Lungs & Livers.	266 lbs.
Bruising & Broken limbs.	639 lbs.	Broken Limbs & Bruised conditions.	182 lbs.
Malnutrition.	168 lbs.	Gangrene.	146 lbs.
Moribund. Condition.	83 lbs.	Medicine Taint.	111 lbs.
Umbilical Pyaemia	67 lbs.	Bone taint in imported mutton.	46 lbs.
Abscesses.	63 lbs.	Anaemia.	41 lbs.
Jaundice.	51 lbs.	Abscesses.	24 lbs.
Actinomycosis.	39 lbs.	Putrefaction.	18 lbs.

Pigs.

Tuberculosis.	669 lbs.
Febrile condition.	153 lbs.
Broken Limbs and Bruised conditions.	119 lbs.
Abscesses.	36 lbs.

